WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 10 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | FEBRUARY 2003

Independent Inquiry Challenges Official View In Bayview Death

Drew Hendricks

The Investigation Which Wasn't

Thurston County detectives 'investigated' the incident of the Olympia Police's killing of Stephen Edwards. They sought to arrest Stephen's widow and prove her complicit in his shoplifting at Bayview. They took a weapon from her home and did not follow the proper Fourth Amendment principles in doing so. They did not report the absence of the security guard's license to be a guard. They did not mention Olympia Police Officer Jeffrey Jordan's involvement in the shooting of Kent DeBoer in his parent's home on January 11 of the same year (2002). Nothing in their investigative summary took into account the lack of reasonable suspicion to believe Stephen was armed prior to the first use of the TASER. The investigation does not seek to clear the Olympia PD half as much as it seeks to tar the names of Stephen and his widow, Cindy. It does not even seem to seriously consider the elements of a wrongful use of force by the police officers or the security guard. It quotes the use of the TASER weapon as being appropriate after a verbal warning but before the use OC (tear) spray.

The Investigation Which Is

Thurston County Sheriff's Department records clerks have been unable to supply this author with anything more than a peek at the investigative summary, withholding copies of the document on the theory that it contains "preconviction data" on the widow.

The Olympia Police Department has given me documents and reports of every witness and officer involved, EXCEPT the eyewitnesses primary to the incident; Officers Jordan and Bakala, the security guard, the TASER log printout, photographs taken before the body was moved, etc. Some of these documents it has claimed it does not have.

The Coroner has given me a copy of the report of the autopsy performed by former Pierce County Chief Medical Examiner Emmanuel Lacsina. But the Coroner's summary mis-states that Stephen's blood sugar was at a high level (500mg/dl). The Washington State Crime Lab reported that figure for his urine, not his blood. This author is uncertain whether the urine test is somehow able to correlate to blood sugar levels at the time of death.

Lacsina was fired in 1996 during a sexual abuse scandal in his office. He regularly performs autopsies around the Puget Sound for various smaller counties.

For meaningful citizen review of this case, we need the same access to the witnesses and the interview results as the investigators. So far we have not had that access.

Some witnesses are unwilling to speak with us, due to instructions that they not cooperate with us. Despite these drawbacks, we have spoken to five eyewitnesses to the events and have plans for further interviews. We have collected every scrap of information we have been granted and some which has been leaked to us. We will continue. We will make this story as public and political as we need to, to prevent another such phony investigation to be sold to us again.

The Recession Hits WROC

Jean Colman and Monica Peabody

I know many of you are familiar with WROC, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition. We are a grassroots membership organization made up of low income parents and allies. Our mission is to affect social and economic justice by educating and empowering low income people, especially those who receive public assistance, to effect positive change in our communities and in our lives. We have been successfully educating our communities and improving welfare policies and laws for 18 years in King County and six years in Thurston County.

WROC is an incredibly important resource for parents living in poverty. They can call WROC to learn self advocacy, attend our many trainings which cover public speaking, citizen lobbying, advocacy, policy making, organizing and economic justice. WROC creates a community, which shares information, resources and leadership opportunities. WROC members educate our others in our community, including our legislators, about the realities of poverty.

WROC began having financial challenges last summer. Donations were down. Some grants did not come in. We were not invited to apply for others. The problem became acute this month when we were denied two grants that we had been counting on. We will continue to pursue funding opportunities, but as of January 8, the Executive Director, Jean Colman, the King County Organizer, Joyce Yee and the Olympia Organizer, Monica Peabody, will be laid off.

The Olympia office will not close, but will depend on the efforts of volunteers. Monica will still be available as a volunteer and will honor all commitments she has made. She will work with volunteers to explore local funding options. We are fortunate to have Chandra, an intern from Evergreen, as well as Jennifer, Brie, Bryn, Kimberly, Larayne, Crystal and Carrie, who is also on WROC's board. They are working hard to keep WROC going and we will maintain as much of a presence in Olympia and on the state and federal level as we can.

What can you do? WROC needs your support in two areas: Policy/ Organizing and Fundraising. Policy/ Organizing: If you want to improve customer service at your local welfare office, you need to step up and take a leading role. We can provide some support, but there will not be a staff person to do the work. We want to develop leadership teams in different areas to keep the organizing going.

We need the Seattle Policy Committee and the Olympia Planning and Organizing Committee and the members in Vancouver to step up and really take leadership around the 2003 session. We want to improve access to education and training by at least ensuring that childcare is available for class time as well as work time. This means that parents who are struggling with the issue need to take an additional step and be willing to testify in Olympia, make phone calls and send emails.

WROC members are working on a workshop to tie together the robbing of federal dollars for social safety net programs to fuel the war machine promoted by the administration. We also hope to start a welfare witness program, fashioned after witnesses for peace. Concerned citizens would accompany welfare recipients to DSHS and silently record their treatment. This would not be about advocacy, but about learning and then sharing the information with the larger community.

Fund Raising: WROC needs your

(continued on page 11)

Where's WIP Going?

by Sandy Mayes

Last month, for the first time in almost thirteen years, Works In Progress did *not* go to print. Did you miss it? I certainly did.

The purpose of this article is to inform readers that the machinery behind the production of this newspaper needs a new engine. Our beloved coordinator, Pat Tassoni, who for many years has carried the burden of ultimate responsibility for the whole production process, will soon be unavailable to continue in that role. So, unless there is someone out there who is ready and willing to fill his shoes, the survival of WIP will depend on a seriously committed group of folks coming together and making it happen. Although Pat's departure does create uncertainty about WIP's future, it also presents an *opportunity* for WIP supporters, new and old, to take a more active role in keeping this exciting project alive.

Works In Progress was founded by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition in 1990. The paper quickly evolved into what has, for many of us, become a treasured Olympia institution. As with KAOS, the Co-op, the Film Society, etc., this independent free progressive newspaper has helped to both facilitate and define our sense of community. With a strong local focus, no other resource in this town has given us such a consistent, open forum through which to communicate and engage as citizens addressing issues often ignored or misrepresented by Olympia's corporate newspaper and other mainstream media.

What Is Needed:

There are, as always, two essential components to the survival of a free newspaper like WIP: *finances* and *people power*. While citizen participation is the more immediate and urgent issue facing WIP, there are financial issues as well which will be discussed later in this article.

<u>People Power</u>

Works In Progress began as a

(continued on page 11)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! /Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!/

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell
Chelsea Chase
Sebastian Chase
Tom Chenhall
Renee Cruickshank
Megan Davis
Teresa Jennings
Jerome Johnson
Margaret Love
Sandy Mayes
Hali Panneton
Jeff Sowers
Sylvia Smith
Pat Tassoni

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Announcements, etc.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Education

United Communities AIDS Network (UCAN) is a local provider of state 4 and 7-hour HIV/AIDS certification courses. The winter schedule is listed below. The cost for the 4-hour class is $30/person. The cost for the 7-hour class is $60/ person. Classes are held at the Thurston County Health Department. All participants must register in advance with UCAN by calling (360)352-2375. UCAN is also available to provide community HIV prevention education workshops at request.

UCAN is a non-profit service organization for people living with HIV/AIDS. UCAN provides financial assistance, advocacy, referrals and a support group for clients. UCAN also provides the community with HIV prevention education. All services are free and confidential. We are located at 1204 E. Fourth Avenue Suite 1 in Olympia.

The Activist Toolkit: Workshops

Media Island International and the FreeSkool are excited to announce that they are collaborating with local and regional activists and organizations to present The Activist Toolkit: Workshops for Activists to Build Stronger Grassroots Movement. Workshops are offered at no cost to participants, and run from January through April.

Consensus-Based Models of Decision Making and Facilitation Training

Wednesday February 19th & Wednesday February 26th at 5:30

Location: Olympia Timberland Library 313 8th Ave. SE Olympia

Facilitators: Grace Cox and Harry Levine (Olympia Food Co-op)

Long time Co-op staffers Grace Cox and Harry Levine will share their knowledge of conflict resolution, working collectively, building consensus, and facilitation skills in this two-part workshop. The first class will be an informative session about facilitating meetings and consensus; the second workshop will provide an opportunity for sharing stories, solving problems, and exploring tough questions. Come learn more about group decision-making processes to use in your own life.

All who want to attend a workshop are encouraged to pre-register for each workshop in which they are interested, as space is limited. Childcare will be provided if participants with children pre-register and identify that childcare is necessary. Refreshments will be served at most workshops. A list of workshops and registration forms can be found on FreeSkool's website, www.freeskoolco-op.org. Registration forms are available at Media Island International. For more information call FreeSkool at 1.877.296.4981 or Media Island 360.352.8526, or visit MII at 816 Adams Street in downtown Olympia across from the Timberland Library.

Rally and March for Peace

International Day of Action Against War

Sat, Feb.15, 2003

2pm Sylvester Park, Olympia

Join with the millions of voices worldwide in opposing a war on Iraq by exercising your Civil Rights today! Information and Great Speakers will be followed by a March to the Capitol.

(continued page 11)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Feb. 21st

PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
phone/fax (360) 705-2726
wip@olywa.net * www.olywa.net/wip

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South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

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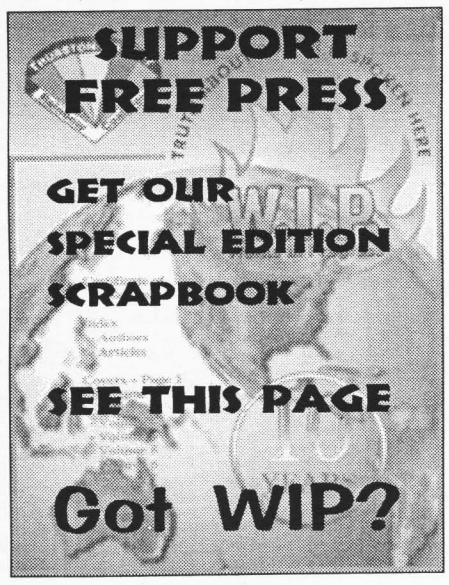
Only You Can Keep WIP Going for Another 10 Years



Subscriptions: ☐ Individual … $35 ☐ Low-Income …$15

Merchandise: ☐ WIP Flame LogoT-Shirt . . . $15 each; # _____ size(s)_____

☐ WIP 10-year Retrospective Scrapbook . . . $15 each

☐ Catalog/Index Listing…$1; back issues…$1/each (while supplies last)

Support Progressive Journalism

If the corporations aren't paying for it, then you have to!

Name _____

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Send to: Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

FEBRUARY 2003

The United States (creator of "Axis of Evil")

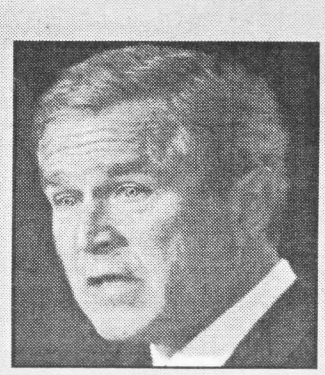
presents

The Asses of Evil

Directed by

Dick Cheney

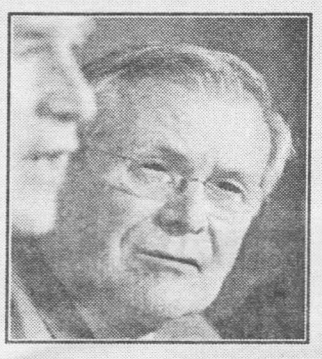
former CEO of Halliburton (world's largest oil-services company) • Board of Directors, Lockheed Martin (world's largest defense contractor) • began his public career working for Rumsfeld



Starring

George Bush, Jr

Texas ex-oil businessman who "built a small fortune by deftly bailing out on his investors, switching to the sports business" • his daddy sits on Carlyle Group's board (invests in defense sector)



and co-starring

Donald Rumsfeld

"Star Wars zealot" • opposed chemical weapons convention, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, SALT II, and International War Crimes Tribunal • Reagan's Middle East envoy

with

John Ashcroft

ties to Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell • considers Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson heros • "built career opposing integration in St. Louis"

Source: *The Guardian*; Physicians for Social Responsibility; *Associated Press*; *Manchester Guardian*; *Newsday*; FAIR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No wonder Bob Jones University, notorious for bigotry, gave Ashcroft an honorary degree in 1999...and no wonder he was proud to accept it. Norman Solomon		*Secret directive to Air force General Holland from Rumsfeld: "develop a plan...to capture terrorists for interrogation or if necessary to kill them, not simply to arrest them in a law-enforcement exercise."*				**1** 2002: Federal officials announce the FBI will be increasing investigations of foreign nationals who might be here illegally
2 1858: Buchanan asks Congress to admit Kansas as a slave state even though Kansas has rejected the pro-slavery constitution	**3** 2002: Bush sends $2.12 trillion budget spending plan to congress which includes $48 billion increase in defense spending	**4** 2002: CIA Predator spy drone fires missile at a group in Afghanistan collecting scrap metal killing one; they weren't al-Qaida	**5** 1902: French Nt'l Assembly reduces miners' work day to 9 hours 2002: Thurston County won't remove logjam on Deschutes River	**6** 1964: Castro orders water supply to Guantanamo Bay cut off in reprisal for seizure of 4 Cuban fishing boats by US off Florida coast	**7** 1886: Riots against Chinese in Seattle; 400+ forcibly ejected from their homes. Federal troops are required to restore order	**8** 1998: Albright promises Saddam Hussein will be punished severely if US uses military force to enforce UN resolutions
9 1905: Russian troops slaughter 150 workers at Nifka mine, Poland 1999: Miller announces it will buy Olympia Brewery from Pabst	**10** 1936: German Gestapo is given independent of administrative courts. They may arrest any individual and hold him/her indefinitely	**11** 2002: Shareholders finally approve an 14-month aggressive hostile takeover of Willamette Industries by Weyerhaeuser	**12** 1913: NY State reports widespread violations of child labor laws 2002: Ken Lay refuses to testify before Congress, takes the 5th	**13** 1949: In opposition to President Truman's proposed compulsory health insurance plan, the AMA favors a voluntary plan	**14** 2002: WA Labor & Industries forces Wal-Mart to relinquish control of its workers' compensation claims handling for eight years	**15** 2002: McCleary wildlife rehabilitation center closure announced 2002: OR leads nation for 3rd month in unemployment rate (8%)
16 2002: WA St approves a dozen antiterrorism laws: broader us of wiretaps by police, death penalty for "first degree terrorism"	**17** 1999: Israeli security guards at Israeli Embassy in Berlin open fire on Kurdish demonstrators killing three and wounding 16	**18** 2002: 2,500 union state workers march to Fourth Ave Bridge protesting the non-union contractor and its environmental practices	**19** 2002: Bush orders study of new nuclear weapons 2002: NY Times reports Pentagon plan to plant disinformation	**20** 1813: Lewis Cass, good friend of John Jacob Astor, is appointed governor of the Michigan Territory, a post he will hold for 19 years	**21** 1885: Congress enacts Contract Labor law banning employers from contracting abroad for labor in return for passage	**22** 2002: Sen Boxer provides records showing Enron executives/lobbyists met/phoned fed. regulators 25 xs during California energy crisis
23 1995: The Dow Jones breaks 4,000 1995: 6,000 rally on Capitol Campus to protest attempt to roll back prevailing wage	**24** 1821: Mexico declares its independence 1998: Friends of Artesians repair damaged piping of the 4th Ave artesian well	**25** 1999: Carlyon Beach homes declared unsafe 2002: Thurston County Commission votes to establish a methadone treatment program	**26** 1965: Jimmie Lee Jackson, civil rights activist, dies of injuries reportedly inflicted by police officers in Marion, Alabama	**27** 1973: Members of American Indian movement (AIM) take over Wounded Knee 2002: Greenspan says recession almost over	**28** 1933: Hitler's government issues decree suppressing civil liberties 2002: Bill Gates is the world's richest man for the 8th year in a row	*Let's take another look at nuclear power.* Dick Cheney

Up Front
A Day at the Office

Jerome Johnson

I was at work in the main office of my job the other day. I have a supervisor—I'll call him Frank—whom I;ve known and worked with for more than eight years. All during that time, Frank and I have had a very interesting ongoing conversation about public affairs. However, today was to prove a to be a milestone.

I read as much as I can, and if I know someone interested in certain topics, I'll pass along a clipping or two. When Frank came into the office to use the copier, he glanced at the clipping I'd put in his box—an article about Pres. Bush on MLK Day—and beamed. "My hero!" he gushed.

Well, I've know Frank long enough to know that he wasn't talking about Dr. King. Frank is an very conservative Republican who is enraptured by President Bush. I nodded and replied, "A little story about Dubya paying lip service to Dr. King on Monday."

Frank stopped copying and looked at me, shocked. "Lip service?" he asked.

"Of course he was," I answered. "Dubya's never believed in Dr. King or his vision or his work. He was just up there paying lip service so he could get as many votes as possible, trying to show he isn't a bigot. Pure politics."

"It was NOT lip service," Frank shot back indignantly. "he really was there to honor Dr. King."

I shook my head wearily. "Dubya is against everything Dr. King stood for and fought for. How can Dubya claim he's 'honoring' someone who would have vehemently opposed the death penalty, especially as it's practiced now, and especially the way Dubya used it while Texass governor? King would have steadfastly opposed this senseless war Dubya's starting in Iraq, and fought the Patriot Act tooth and nail. That law takes away the very rights King fought so hard to protect."

"What about the University of Michigan case? It uses quotas—"

"No, it doesn't. And why is Dubya butting into that, anyway? I thought he said he was going to get Government out of our lives. How is that case the Government's business?"

Frank clenched his jaw and turned back to the copy machine. "Times are different now. It's a good thing he isn't here to fight the President on those things."

For once, I was stunned into silence.

How could anyone—let alone a devout Christian—claim that it's good that Dr. King is dead?

And then my temper took hold. I don't anger easily, but this made my blood boil.

After work, I went home and thought about this experience. My anger cooled as a quiet voice of reason began to speak in inside my head.

"You have to understand," the voice said. "He doesn't know anything about what it's like to be black. He doesn't know what it's like to be oppressed, suppressed and depressed as a matter of course. He doesn't know what it's like to feel that icy clench in the gut every time he sees a Confederate flag. He has no concept of what it's like to deal with racism all of his life, or how dangerous racism is. All his life he's been cocooned in skin privilege, and Dubya tells him everything he wants to hear."

But that's no excuse, I fumed to myself. He has a Master's degree. We've been talking for EIGHT YEARS. And he's supposed to be a Christian—how can he NOT know better?

"Look at his background," the voice replied. "How many people of color has he really met? Aren't you the one he's had the most contact with, ever? When and where he went to school there was no diversity at all, and in his life there's been only the little he's seen—at work—since you've known him."

As I fixed my dinner, the voice kept talking, and I listened. There was no excuse, I think, for Frank's attitude, but I was beginning to understand why and how he could have it. At least, some of it. It still escapes me how someone can claim to be Christian, attend church every Sunday—and yet vigorously oppose a woman's right to control her own body, endorse a heinously unfair death penalty and support a senseless war.

I ate dinner, and then set about some housework. As I tossed laundry into the basket, it occurred to me that I should actually be grateful to Frank. Although I'd been watching tributes to Dr. King and the cause of civil rights all week, the talk with Frank had re-energized my sense of purpose like nothing else. It made it more clear to me than ever that 40 years after 1963, at the dawn of a new century, there is still much work to do, much consciousness to be raised, before Dr. King's vision is fully realized.

Because you see, when Dr. King spoke of "all of God's children," he didn't mean just you and I. He meant folks like Frank and Dubya, too.

****

In Ivory Coast, a fragile cease-fire continues to hold.

In Venezuela, the people resist efforts to depose Pres. Chavez.

In Washington, DC and around the country, thousands march for peace.

And in Lacey, Virgil Clarkson reminds us that even though things are better, there is yet work to be done.

News from the Prison Front

Prisoners Denied Adequate Hygiene

Washington State prisoners held in the intensive management unit (IMU) are denied shower access four days a week, because those who rule over them seek to be paid without working for their money. In order to justify this, the parasites justify repression by claiming rules were being broken in IMU, and that restrictions on the use of showers would deter similar acts which prisoners might commit anytime someone goes there.

Although this is said in an honest sincere way prison officials know they're lying to your face anytime they convey this information onto other people. What outsiders are not't aware of is that these oppressors held meetings and made plans to take showers and other necessities from prisoners in IMU. Even before there was a rule violation, which came to justify it later. Anyone with a view inside the bourgeois mind knows there are predators like this who will deceive everyone in a effort to exploit other people. It hardly matters that little would be gained by it, or that prisoners actually pay a portion of their funds toward incarceration and would be entitled to showers on a daily basis if need be to keep clean and prevent health problems associated with poor hygiene.

If it means a free ride on tax dollars, these people will take as much as possible in order to acquire easy money. You can help put people before profits by contacting prison officials and complaining about conditions and by contacting prisoner and offering support.

Fund Schools NOT Correctional Bureaucracies

When you say the magic words "crime and punishment" everything is possible. State governments spare no money from their coffers. The funds flow even when it means needless bureaucracy, which comes at the expense of education and other social programs needed by poor and working class people.

One example of this is found in Olympia Washington, among those employed at the regional office funded by the correctional operations. Prison officials offer a flimsy justification for their work done at this office. What makes the situation even harder to buy is that there is a 7-story, fully staffed, correctional personnel building headquarters just down the road. All the work done in the regional office can be at headquarters for less. This is true when it comes to all regional facilities situated around Washington State. There is no doubt that this accounts for just a small portion of the bureaucratic spending covered by a prison budget that is nearly one billion dollars.

What makes for good politics is decidedly bad policy, as far as education and social programs are concerned. This is especially true where there are less expensive ways to deal with crime. Yet, the legislation in Washington does not view reform as an option. Politicians, and anyone else, who seeks to profit from a higher rate of crime, have more money to lose that to gain by putting social programs ahead of prison bureaucracies.

Students and others who want to change this must organize! You are encouraged to contact us at the addresses below if you want to get involved.

Anyone who has a desire to help should contact Mark for more information.
Mark LaRue 629174
E-106-IMU
PO Box 900 Shelton, WA 98584

KNOW MORE's "Evil-Doer" of the Month

Henry Kissinger...(Former) Chairman Of The Commission To Investigate 9/11

Nancy West

After a brief two-week stint as the head of "President" Bush's Commission to investigate 9/11, Henry Kissinger has resigned. Needless to say, there weren't too many folks who were overly distraught by his decision. Even though his most recent service to the government and the people of the United States was brief and came to an abrupt halt, Know More has decided to bestow upon Mr. Kissinger the title of Evildoer for the month. His past service to this country certainly makes him more than qualified for this title.

Referring to Kissinger's past government service, Christopher Hitches notes that he is ...

> ...a guy who's had two careers of massive deception. First as an official lying to Congress about Cambodia; then as the author of three volumes of memoirs, in which he falsified major matters, including negotiations on Vietnam, Angola, and collusion with Indonesia on East Timor - this is fact, not assertion, as attested by recently declassified documents.

Yep, definitely one of Bush's Bad Boys and well suited to be Know More's Evildoer for the month.

Okay, so what do some other people think of Mr. Kissinger? Here's a couple quotes.

First, let's hear from our "President".

> Today, I'm pleased to announce my choice for commission chairman, Dr. Henry Kissinger. Dr. Kissinger is one of our nation's most accomplished and *respected* [emphasis added] public servants. He worked here at the White House as National Security Advisor, represented America abroad as the Secretary of State for two Presidents. He is a distinguished author, academic, Army veteran, and winner of the Nobel *Peace* Prize. He's also spent much of his life in New York, feels deeply the loss that came to that city and to our country. Dr. Kissinger will bring broad experience, clear thinking, and careful judgment to this important task.

So, here we have one person who thinks he's the "cat's meow".

Next is from Maureen Dowd of the ***New York Times***. She seems to think his appointment was a good choice...

> *It's an inspired choice. Bold, counterintuitive, edgy, outside the box.*

Who better to investigate an unwarranted attack on America than the man who used to instigate America's unwarranted attacks?

Okay, so maybe not.

The following quote is from a Southern Baptist Preacher who voted for GeeDubya. He's surely in favor of the appointment.

> President Bush's appointment of Henry Kissinger to lead the investigation into the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, should end all doubts as to whether or not the President is sincere in his desire to discover the truth. He isn't. Or, perhaps he knows the truth but doesn't want us to know it. Either way, putting Kissinger in charge of this investigation is tantamount to getting a fox to guard the hen house.

Yep, definitely one of Bush's Bad Boys and well suited to be Know More's Evildoer for the month.

Hummm, doesn't sound like he thinks much of Kissinger either.

John Nichols of ***The Online Beat*** thinks Bush may have accomplished his goal.

> If President Bush had set out to undermine the credibility of the commission charged with probing the intelligence and security flaws that allowed the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to succeed, he would have begun by naming as the chair someone with a track record of secrecy, double-dealing and bartering himself off to the highest bidder.

Of course, what Bush set out to do was **not** to find out what really happened on 9-11.

David Krieger notes how good Kissinger is at keeping a secret.

> Mr. Kissinger, always a ruthless power seeker and broker, even keeps secret the client list at his power brokerage firm, Kissinger Associates. One wonders how Kissinger could possibly be even-handed in this important investigation when he may be called upon to investigate his secret clients. He and Mr. Bush seem to be operating on the assumption that what the public doesn't know won't hurt them. While this is one way to shove conflicts of interest under the rug, it is an exceedingly dangerous assumption in an already dangerous world.

But, but, but the idea is to *expose* all the secrets

Frank Rich notes that this is to be an independent commission.

> The strangest player of all, predictably, is Henry Kissinger, whose first act as chairman of the "independent" commission to investigate 9/11 was to initiate a cover-up, fully backed by the White House, of the identities of the clients of Kissinger Associates, his consulting firm. Mr. Kissinger consistently sees the confidentiality of this list as a higher priority than service to his country.

Kissinger isn't about to give up his client list and who knows what countries, companies and people might be on that list.

CNN quotes Mr. Kissinger's concerns regarding the possible exposure of his client list.

> It is clear that, although specific potential conflicts can be resolved in this manner, the controversy would quickly move to the consulting firm I have built and own," Kissinger wrote in a letter to President Bush, who appointed him. "I have, therefore, concluded that I cannot accept the responsibility you proposed.

Gosh, I wonder who's on that list.

So, Kissinger resigns and Dan Eggen of the ***Washington Post*** quotes Stephen Push, a 9/11 family member who recognizes the contradiction in the reason for the resignation. He called the resignation "very puzzling."

> He told us that he had no conflicts, yet he's apparently resigning from an opportunity to serve his country so his clients can remain anonymous. It's disturbing that we've had two high-profile resignations in a row. It shouldn't be hard to find good people to serve.

Mr. Push what *you* are suggesting in your last sentence is pretty much a contradiction in terms.

Stephen Push also says that the resignation of Mr. Kissinger is an opportunity for the president to pick a better chairman. "The president made a mistake and he has a chance to do it over and appoint the right person: Warren Rudman".

Oh, Mr. Push, I hope you weren't holding your breath.

Know More's Tip of the Month

To know more about our culture and what makes it tick, read Derrick Jensen's books *A Language Older than Words* and *Culture of Make Believe*.

FYI — Derrick Jensen will be releasing his next book this fall and plans to be back in Olympia for another book talk.

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Meditation on Sylvester Park

Standing on the Precipice of History

Krystal Kyer

Olympia, Washington proclaims itself an "All-American City" of 40,000. This capitol city is home to an immediately familiar square-block size park — Sylvester Park. It is a remarkable bit of open space where people mingle free of charge.

Here, a lush green lawn defies all seasons, and knotty old hardwoods beg to be climbed. A white-painted gazebo is in the middle, and a statue of a man stands across from it. Simple as it is, it serves its function. Throughout the year, and at different times of day, Sylvester Park hosts a variety of guests: employees on breaks quickly ingesting coffee or nicotine, downtown shoppers resting sore feet on benches, capitol tourists, jugglers and kids at play, homeless people —crowds of youths with mean-looking purple Mohawks alternating with Vietnam Vets, various public rallies, peace vigils, and the weekly "Food-Not-Bombs" free warm meal to the hungry people of our state's capitol.

By all accounts, the park is a splendid little space that unconditionally accepts the multitude of diversity entering, passing thru, and sometimes sleeping in it. This park should be familiar to all, even though you probably haven't visited it —only the name and location changes.

But as parks go, each is unique. What sets Sylvester Park apart from all the others is a hardly-noticeable chunk of granite the size of a large pumpkin in one corner of the park. On this rock is a plaque demarcating the end of the Oregon Trail. Yes, this is where the now infamous Lewis & Clark expedition arrived in 1844, before turning back to report their findings, catalyzing the Western expansion of the United States across an entire continent and all that stood in its way. It is this unremarkable stone marker that causes me to pause and think about American history — past, present, and future.

By 2003, we've had ample time to see the results of the ideology of Manifest Destiny —the notion that it is the white man's God-given right and obligation to conquer nature and all its wild creatures from sea to shining sea, was a nightmare for anyone and anything that got in the way. This idea turned national obsession justified so much terror and destruction that we cannot ignore the lesson. However, that seems to be what we are doing.

Manifest Destiny was more than a national motto; it was a crucial element of the building of the American economy. Capitalism requires continuous economic growth —that means expanding the control of resources —human, natural or otherwise. And in that sense, today's imperial aggression by the United States in the Middle East is a predictable consequence of our economic system. Indeed, the inflation of Manifest Destiny to the control of the entire planet's resources is where we stand today by choice.

I turn to the formation of this country to examine the effects of Manifest Destiny and the mythological "white knight" that still rides around trying to justify his right to manage the world's resources, because Father knows best.

America's history with regard to Native American nations is smeared with bloody massacres, lies, broken treaties, racism, biological warfare, and blatant genocide. Historian Howard Zinn notes that over 9 of 10 million Native Americans were wiped off this Earth, never to return. The remaining survivors and their kin faced other forms of oppression aimed at erasing their identities and cultures.

Make no mistake, democracy isn't what's on the table here. That's just the codeword for capitalism.

Today the Bill of Rights appears teetering on decay, but were our cherished Civil Rights ever there?

The United States, for all practical purposes, outlawed the religions, languages and cultures of the remaining Native Americans. Cultural destruction was a part of warfare. Children were kidnapped only to be indoctrinated in residential Christian schools as recently as the 1950s. The reservation system is akin to the detention camps of Japanese Americans during WWII and the isolation of Palestinians in refugee camps by the US-sanctioned and funded Israeli government. On the reservations we find rampant alcoholism, high unemployment, lack of basic services, and near-total social and cultural disintegration, completing the intentional process of slow genocide.

Of course, along with the violation of millions of people, came the destruction of a vast and rich continent. Killing of the buffalo, raping of the forests, poisoning of the water, damning of the living rivers, pollution of the air, and overuse of the Midwest prairies which continues on today, would not have been possible without our drive for more territory. And that's just some of the effects of US imperialism at home. Abroad, the story isn't any better. Given the facts of history, we have to ask this question: Will the treatment of the people and territory of Iraq be much different? There is no evidence pointing toward a brighter future ? so long as the history of US-Middle East relations, if you can call it that, continues on the same historical path.

Even the barest history of US intervention in the Middle East shows our true intentions, and the likely outcomes of another US invasion of Iraq on what Noam Chomsky terms 'unimportant people' who happen to be living there.

In 1933 US-based oil companies swindled Saudi Arabia out of its enormous oil wealth, by giving them $775,000 for a 60-year concession to exploit its oil reserves. We continue to maintain close relations with this clearly unjust dictatorship. Saudi Arabia is also a bastion of terrorism, home of Osama bin Laden, and the majority of the September 11 hijackers.

Throughout the 1980's we supported and provided arms to Iraq, under the same evil Saddam Hussein, while simultaneously equipping Iran with arms in hopes of eliminating two countries full of 'unimportant people' with one stone. When Hussein used chemical weapons on his own population and on Iranian soldiers, we turned a blind eye, seeing as those chemicals were provided to Iraq by the US.

In 1990 Iraq stopped cooperating with US interests when soldiers invaded Kuwait, threatening our access to affordable and plentiful oil fields. The Persian Gulf War sought to protect our energy needs, and succeeded by encouraging Hussein to turn his aggression on Iraqi citizens who were deceivingly encouraged by the US to rise up and overthrow him, only to be crushed when coalition forces retreated. To keep our friendly dictator in line, the United States imposes economic sanctions on the country, sanctions which cost more than 500,000 lives by 1997, and probably as many more since then, according the United Nations.

Since peace negotiation began between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the United States has worked to prevent successful negotiations, rhetoric aside. We've succeeded. Hence, the Palestinians feel the pain of US-Israeli terrorism on a daily basis, while their Middle East neighbors watch helplessly.

These tidbits of US history in the Middle East are enough to expose US intentions for what they are —a desperate grab for the Middle East-s fossil fuel resources —at any cost. This is not so much for maintaining our own fossil fuel economy, but rather to control the growth of foreign economies and to siphon potential oil revenues to Western corporations. With Iraq controlling 10% of known reserves, and with Hussein no longer in our pocket, its no wonder why the second Bush Administration, consisting largely of oil company executives, turned on its former ally.

It's true, Saddam Hussein is a dictator and a criminal. He should be charged with crimes against humanity and tried in the International Criminal Court. Perhaps this will happen after the United States seizes control of Iraq. Of course we are not above assassinating him, either.

But Saddam Hussein is one man. What about everyone else? Millions of Iraqi civilians will remain alive, if US bombs haven't hit them, and a distant dictator named G.W. Bush will rule them. While the ruling class in Iraq will likely maintain their privileges after a US invasion, the majority of the populace will need to be kept in its place. A population of 23 million people is too many people to carry out a genocidal campaign without international intervention, but we can certainly indoctrinate and acculturate them into Western capitalist society. Then they will join their working American counterparts who can't meet basic needs. The only difference will be the name: Democracy. The only problem with democracy is that you must choose capitalism or else the American fist of capitalism will shoot you down. Make no mistake, democracy isn't what's on the table here. That's just the codeword for capitalism. True democracy is irrelevant.

Back in Sylvester Park, I envision America standing on this mini-precipice of history. From here we see the horrific results of our conquest of nature and humans -- surrounded by buildings, streets, and gas-guzzling SUVs. Underneath our feet, if we choose to peek, we will find Earth buried in a concrete grave, and the token remnants of native culture refusing to die even as we attempt to crush what is left. Behind us the trail is forever forged. Many are still waiting for us to make amends. Our one saving grace: the future direction is yet to be chosen. Let us learn from history and choose wisely, taking whatever risks are necessary to ensure the survival of us All. If you believe there is no choice, or that its already been made, then you shall fulfill your own horrific prophecy. And that's what the ruling elite want you to believe. Don't. Make a choice and stand for peace!

Krystal Kyer, veteran, member of United For Peace —Thurston County. http://www.united4peacetc.org email: info@united4peacetc.org

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United for Peace
Thurston County coalition formed

Chris Stegman

We are excited to announce that a new coalition of concerned citizens and organizations is forming in order to better communicate, organize, and mobilize local residents against the impending war on Iraq and toward greater peace and justice, both at home and abroad.

Members of many local peace organizations and others have endorsed forming a broad regional coalition affiliated with the national organization - United For Peace (http://www.unitedforpeace.org). The statement agreed upon at the founding of United For Peace is as follows:

"The demand placed on us by world events is to deal with the Iraq crisis and to work to stop the war... This is unfolding in a global context where other crises can and will erupt in connection to the Iraq crisis and they too will demand our action. In addition, we will oppose new repressive measures at home. We can and will work together now, focused on stopping tjis war, and as we go forward we will discuss other issues and the larger context. Unite for peace and say NO! to war."

United for Peace/Thurston County Coalition Points of Agreement (adopted January 6, 2003)

We oppose the renewed war on Iraq, the ongoing bombing of Iraq since 1990, the illegal US-UK imposed 'no fly zone', and the US economic sanctions that target Iraqi civilians, recognizing that all of the actions are not sanctioned by international law. We also condemn Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons. We recognize that the former is far greater in magnitude than the latter but we need to be consistent in our defense of human rights for all.

We support U.S. foreign policies which promote: human rights, economic justice, and self-determination for all people as the best way to prevent future acts of terrorism and to promote global well-being.

We oppose the war at home - the attack on Civil Liberties, as seen in the USA-Patriot Act, the racist INS detentions and deportations of immigrants, the rise in violence against Muslim and Middle-Eastern residents, and the dual attack on organized labor and gutting of social welfare programs, while extending welfare to corporations and the military industries.

We support a multilateral effort led by the United Nations Security Council and International Criminal Court to deal with those who plan and perpetrate acts of terrorism, such as those of Sept. 11, 2001.

We recognize the need to work both together and as individuals and organizations to further the struggle for economic, social, and environmental justice, in order to counter the efforts of a highly organized corporate media and government.

Supporting members include: Olympians for Peace in the Middle East, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, Green Party of South Puget Sound, Thurston Democrats, Earthbound Productions, Traditions Fair Trade Café, Peace and Justice Studies Association, Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, Pastors for Peace, Stonewall Youth, Students Organizing Students About the Middle East, Women Rock Productions, South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign, City Limits, SPSCC Political Action Club.

For more information or to get involved go to www.united4peacetc.org email: info@united4peacetc.org or call Simona 867-6196 or Chris 705-3528

NO WAR ON IRAQ
Freeway Overpass Actions

Sandy Mayes

For the past several weeks, people in Thurston County have joined with citizens all around the country by taking part in weekly Saturday freeway overpass actions. These peace demonstrations began in the Bellingham area and the idea has caught on nation-wide, primarily via the internet. Participants from various locales report that the response from drivers is overwhelmingly positive; a steady flow of honking horns, thumbs-up (and yes, there is also the occasional unfriendly gesture.)

These events have multiple benefits. Thousands of people are exposed to an anti-war message which, for many, is an extremely rare event. As drivers respond with supportive honks, they too send a message not only to the demonstrators, but to the drivers around them as well. Both demonstrators and people who have passed by in their cars report a sense of affirmation and hopefulness: There are more of us than they want us to believe!

United For Peace Thurston County has helped spear-head the overpass actions in our area, and it continues to endorse and organize them. There is a strong consensus that these events are well worth continuing. And so we will continue, every Saturday from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

In order to make these actions both safe and effective, UFPTC stipulates the following recommendations:

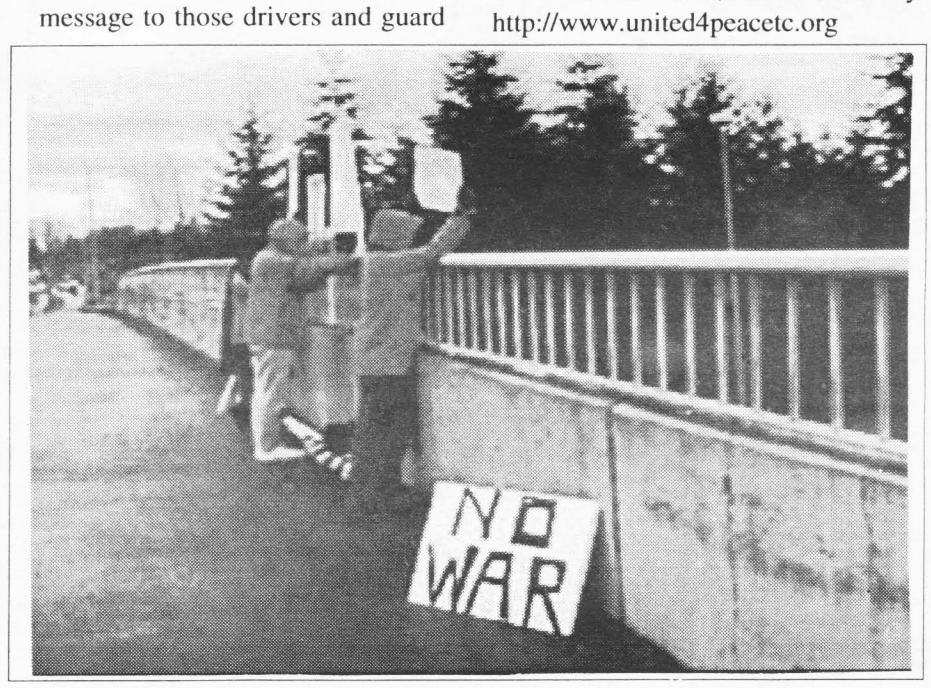
1) We recommend only those overpasses that have long straight approaches from both directions. When cars approach an overpass as they are maneuvering or just coming out of a curve in the road, sign-holders on the overpass above can present a dangerous distraction. We also recommend overpasses of comparatively low height, again, so that drivers are not overly distracted by efforts to read the signs. For now our list of sites includes, on I-5: College, Sleater-Kinney, Trosper Road and 93rd. And on Hwy 101: the Mud Bay overpass.
2) Short, simple messages (written in large print), and equally simple images (such as a peace sign or U.S. flag), are recommended, as they are easily and quickly recognizable from the road below.
3) It is advisable to be aware of who is with you and what they are doing. In one instance, an unknown young person (elevenish) showed up on Sleater-Kinney and, until we intervened, was apparently oriented toward dropping trash over the railing and onto the motorists below. This is the kind of problem we should all strive to avoid.
4) Have at least one person on each side of the overpass face in toward the drivers on the overpass. This will serve to both communicate our message to those drivers and guard against potential assault from hostile passers by.

Also good to know: Although the police have thus far allowed us to conduct these actions, they will ask you to remove any items you attach to the railing and they will not permit anything to hang over the railing. Attaching your signs, flags and banners to poles or sticks will make the task of holding them above railing height much easier.

There has also been some suggestion that waving signs back and forth might be considered too distracting to drivers.

Since we are often asked where bodies are most needed, it is helpful if we know where people plan to demonstrate. If you plan to participate, please let us know where you will be, and for what period of time by e-mailing: figtree@olywa.net. Those not on the cutting edge of the technological revolution can also call 956-1136.

United For Peace, Thurston County: http://www.united4peacetc.org



photos by NANCY KELLY

Petition to the State of Washington to Reaffirm the Constitutional Authority of Congress to Declare War

Jeffrey Denison and Bob Ficalora

This petition asks the State of Washington to recognize as unconstitutional the act entitled *"Joint Resolution To authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq"* because it purports to allow the President to make war against a sovereign state with which we are formally at peace.

The Oath of Office of Washington State officials includes these words: *"I... do solemnly swear that I will uphold the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America...so help me God."* Washington State legislators and Governor Gary Locke have thus sworn that they will uphold the Constitution of the United States and are duty bound to oppose any action of the federal government that directly infringes upon the Constitution.

We, therefore, request a Joint Memorial* from this our state of Washington to the President and to Congress upholding the Constitution by declaring that war may not be waged by the President in the name of the People of the State of Washington, or of the United States, without a declaration of war by Congress.

We are a nation of law, not of men. The authority of our government and governing officials originates neither from Divine Right nor ancestry but from law, and the Constitution is the highest and most inviolable law of our land. The Constitution established the office of the presidency and gives the President his powers of office. Article II, Section 2 delineates precisely those powers granted to him: it gives him power and restrains his power, and he has no power that is not stated therein. The President's duty to the nation is that to which he has sworn in his Oath of Office, *"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."*

Congress does not have the constitutional authority to grant, assign, convey or otherwise surrender this expressly delegated power to the President.

The Constitution does not give the President the power to declare war nor to conduct an undeclared war against a sovereign country with which we are formally at peace, and we remain formally at peace until there is a declaration of war by Congress. Furthermore, Congress does not have the constitutional authority to grant, assign, convey or otherwise surrender this expressly delegated power to the President. Congress and Congress alone has that power as specified in Article I, Section 8, which states, "The Congress shall have Power...To Declare War...."

No precedent can defend a constitutional argument: violations of the Constitution in the past are not grounds for allowing a new violation. The argument must be made *de novo*, that is, from the original intent and the specific language of the Constitution. Previous undeclared wars cannot serve as constitutional grounds for a new undeclared war.

The Constitution of the United States established a union of independent and sovereign states. The federal government has only the powers delegated to it by the states and if any state declares that said federal government is acting without or in excess of its constitutionally delegated powers, and that state refuses to allow such action in its name, the federal government is barred from acting upon that claim of power.

In other words, if a state declares that the act upon which a claim of war authority has been made is unconstitutional, and there has been no declaration of war, it may deny any claim of power to make war either in the name of the State of Washington or of the United States. Under such circumstances with such a declaration, the federal government cannot make war.

Furthermore, the military, the officers of which have sworn an oath simular to that of the Congress and the President to uphold the Constitution, is duty bound to disregard the President's orders because his constitutional authority is denied by a state. Such an affirmative declaration on constitutional grounds by a state will stop the war.

In summary, if the State of Washington declares that George W. Bush cannot go to war in its name, or in the name of the United States, then he must get a declaration of war from Congress. Without such a declaration, our military must obey its oath to protect the Constitution and stand down in further aggressions.

*Joint Memorial. A message or petition addressed to the President and/or Congress of the United States, or the head of any other agency of the federal or state government, asking for consideration of some matter of concern to the state or region.

The petition is available online for you to read and sign:

http://www.PetitionOnline.com/jan24_03/petition.html

Further information is available online at: http://www.montauk.com/snow.cfm

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Petition to the State of Washington to Reaffirm the Constitutional Authority of Congress to Declare War

We the undersigned, citizens of the State of Washington and of the United States of America, under emergency conditions, with United States forces poised and declared ready to attack a sovereign nation with which we are formally at peace, do humbly approach the most Hon. Gary Locke and the Legislature of the State of Washington, to issue such immediate Proclamations, Orders and Resolutions that hold:

That the State of Washington does unequivocally and most solemnly declare a warm attachment to the Union of the States; and that for this end it is the duty of the States, on behalf of their people, to watch over and oppose every infraction of those principles which constitute the only basis of that Union, because the faithful observance of this duty can alone secure its existence and the public happiness;

That the several States, in forming the United States of America, not united on the principle of unlimited submission to a new general government, first united by a compact of Articles of Confederation, and later by a compact under the style and title of a Constitution for the United States, and of amendments thereto; they constituted a general government for special purposes and delegated to it certain definite and specified powers, each State reserving to itself the residuary mass of right to their own self-government; when the general government assumes, or pretends to legislate unto itself, undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force;

That the powers of the general government result from the compact to which the states are parties, as limited by the plain sense and intention of the instrument constituting the compact; and are only valid when authorized by the grants enumerated in that compact; and that in case of a deliberate, palpable, and dangerous exercise of other powers, not granted by the said compact, the states who are parties thereto have the right, and are in duty bound, to interpose for arresting the progress of the evil, and for maintaining within their respective limits, the authorities, rights and liberties appertaining to them;

That to our Constitution each State acceded as a State, and is an integral part, its co-States forming, as to itself, the other party: that the body politic, or government, created by this compact was not made the exclusive or final judge of the extent of the powers delegated to itself; since that would have made its discretion, and not the Constitution, the measure of its powers; but that, as in all other cases of compact among sovereign powers having no common judge, each party has an equal right to judge for itself, as well of infractions as of the mode and measure of interposition and redress;

That the Articles of Confederation did hold that "No State shall engage in any war without... a declaration of war by the United States in Congress assembled..."; the Constitution did affirm that "The Congress shall have power to... declare war ..."; mindful of the founders' sufferings at law under royal authority, and the unexplained failures by the executive on September 11th, 2001, and its subsequent hurried taking of extraordinary powers, the executive has never been, and is not, by any compact among the states, granted the power to declare war; Congress, a constituent part of our republican government, is not empowered to reconstitute government, or to grant, convey or otherwise surrender the powers delegated to it by the states to another branch of government; the act of Congress, passed this October, 2002, and signed by the President, entitled "Joint Resolution authorizing use of force against Iraq", in pretending to grant to the executive the power to make war against a sovereign nation with which we are formally at peace, is altogether without authority, void, and of no force;

That a spirit has thus been manifested by the general government to enlarge its powers from the compact among the states which defines them, and implications have appeared of a design to increase the power of the executive, so as to consolidate the states by degrees into one sovereignty, the obvious tendency and inevitable consequence of which would be to transform the present republican system of the United States into an absolute, or at best a mixed, monarchy; efforts to operate government outside of, and with contempt for, our laws, and our Constitution, threatens the loss of our sovereign rights, liberties and privileges at law, and our people with despotism and tyranny;

That the utmost sincere affection for our brothers and sisters of the other states and of the world, and the truest anxiety for the perpetuation of our liberties under God and the Constitution, does demand a Proclamation on behalf of this, the State of Washington, that the aforesaid act is unconstitutional; and to take such necessary and proper measures for informing, and co-operating with, other states in maintaining the Authorities, Rights, and Liberties, referred to, of the States respectively, or of the People, through immediate and official proclamations that under the Constitution, and for the protection thereof, the states are duty bound to oppose all acts of war by President George W. Bush against Iraq, or intrusions or aggressions upon its sovereign soil, under the circumstances presented; and to order that the President immediately cease such actions in the name of the State of Washington and of the United States;

That the Proclamations, Orders and Resolutions herein petitioned for shall be issued immediately and without delay by your office, or offices, in the name of the People of the State of Washington, and to immediately transmit a copy of said Proclamations, Orders and Resolutions to the Governors of each of the other states and also to the Legislatures of the other States and the Senators and Representatives representing the State of Washington in the Congress of the United States.

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Osama says: 'I Want You to Invade Iraq.'
***TomPaine.com** features reasons why we shouldn't.*

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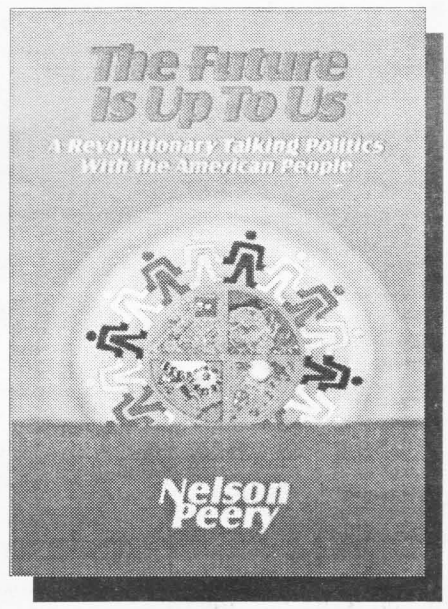
The Future is Up to Us
A Revolutionary Talking Politics with the American People



Dave Zink

The Future is Up to Us: A Revolutionary Talking Politics with the American People by Nelson Peery. (Speakers for a New America Books, Chicago, 2002)

"Proletariat" ? What's *that* ?

Nelson Peery explains that the word "proletariat" comes from the days when the Roman Republic was transformed into the Roman Empire. The introduction of slaves into Rome, from lands conquered and incorporated into the Empire, drove the workers off the farms and out of the workshops and into a new class of the permanently unemployed. The term "proletariat" originally referred to a basically idle group, not part of the new system.

One of my favorite dogmas—that working people like me constitute the revolutionary class with the "historic mission" to overthrow capitalism—takes a hit courtesy of Mr. Peery. He asserts that it is well-nigh impossible for steadily-employed workers to be revolutionary because they can be controlled by the discipline of the job. "If I speak up and act up, I might tick off the boss. I could get fired, lose my home and my car, and my kids won't go to college." But you can't use that kind of discipline with people who don't have a job, a home, or a car – and that describes a burgeoning new section of the working class. One way that this new proletariat *can* be controlled is jail – and jail-building, with privatization of the penal system and use of low-cost prison labor, is now a growth industry. Electronic surveillance is another method the rulers can and will use in their attempt to keep things from getting out of hand.

What sociologist William Julius Wilson once described inadequately as "the underclass" is here reformulated in a way that should give us on the left reason to reconsider some of our assumptions. Peery says that the new class which labor-replacing technology is bringing into existence is a true proletariat. Temporary and part-time workers already make up 30% of the work force. The number of minimum-wage workers is expanding rapidly, as are the numbers of homeless people. More and more people are wearing "Will Work for Food" signs on the streets of America. All this in a time of relative capitalist *prosperity*, not a depression as in the 1930's.

Why is this happening?

The only way to profitably sell anything today is to cut labor costs. That means "downsizing" of America's industrial base and "outsourcing" jobs to the lowest-wage areas of the world. Computerized control facilitates Trans-National Corporations moving production elsewhere. As the numbers of unwanted, temporary, and minimum-wage workers swell, wide and deep unrest in urban America is growing. These people are to varying degrees outside of, and increasingly alienated from, capitalist society. The police fear this growing and unruly section of the population, and that fear and hatred is returned with interest.

This new American proletariat is more and more being forced into a position where it must attack and destroy this society in order to live. It is destined to be at the heart of the struggle to organize a new kind of society, based upon the distribution of commodities and services according to need, not money.

These changing economic and social realities were behind the Los Angeles Rebellion of 1992. The LA rebellion was contemptuous of anything smacking of bourgeois law, order, or property relations. The new proletariat is an uprising waiting to happen. To channel the inevitable growing popular discontent into positive directions, revolutionaries must work hard to make the growing, spontaneous, "fight-back" movement conscious of itself.

At this time, we are at the point where economic revolution calls social revolution into being. It's only a question of what's going to ignite it. Uprisings will most likely occur where the contradictions brought about by robotics are most glaring. A robotic factory humming away in plain sight of a homeless shelter might provide the spark.

We are now deep in the process of economic revolution and at the edge of social revolution.

What are some consequences of Peery's thinking?

For one thing, the strategy of "industrial concentration" of revolutionaries needs to be reconsidered. Large concentrations of labor are rapidly disappearing from America due to labor-replacing technology. Large concentrations of workers can still be found in the third world – that's where this strategy may still be valid. Certainly, helping third-world workers to organize effective unions would help slow down the global race to the bottom.

Tactics are changing. Where we once had to stand on the street corner and hand out leaflets one-on-one, now we can get in touch with a thousand people by pressing a few buttons on a computer keyboard.

We are now deep in the process of economic revolution and at the edge of social revolution. Both of these are objective processes. The political response, however, is *subjective*. Peery says that people know that things are going wrong with the system, but they don't *understand* what they know. This is the point where revolutionaries - propagandists and agitators – are essential: to help people connect the dots. The youth will be pulled into this thing one way or another, either to the fascists or to the revolutionary movement.

Revolutionary socialists have, so far, objectively led struggles for reform of capitalism. Why? For years, there has been a subjective desire of a relatively few activists for a new and better society, but until now there has been no objective possibility for it. The destruction of previous systems, based upon primitive communism, chattel slavery, then feudalism, was not possible until new means of production made those systems no longer tenable. In the same way, the destruction of capitalist property relations has not been possible without changes in the means of production that will make capitalist ownership impossible to maintain.

Peery says that to solve the problem of distribution, goods must be distributed free. The only class which can resolve this contradiction is the new proletarian class. To this, Peery now adds this conclusion: this modern version of "to each according to need" is communism for the contemporary era. Resolution of this contradiction is *revolution*, and the class that can lead this revolution is an "objectively communist" class – people who lack the money to pay for the things they need.

The Left's weakness was that we we've been an ideological movement without a practical, objective base. The problem today is the development of a practical movement without a subjective or ideological expression. As long as the working class votes for the two corporate-dominated political parties, there can be no meaningful proletarian political response to the unfolding economic revolution. The Communist Party sees the Democratic Party as the "lesser of two evils". Peery says the CP is revolutionary in rhetoric, but in its practical life it acts as the left wing of the "progressive" and reform movement.

To counter the falling rate of profit, capitalists constantly strive to cut labor costs and improve the means of production, despite the fact that sometimes this takes a qualitative leap and creates consequences they could not envision. This is precisely the case with high tech. Thus, the ruling class creates the conditions that are going to destroy their rule. They can't help it – the systemic drive to increase short-term profit compels them to do so.

To Peery, social consciousness means to take a class stand. Class consciousness means to demand political power to achieve the things we need to do. With the founding of the Labor Party of America (LPA), we're seeing the first organized efforts toward full-fledged political independence from the ruling class. Some will sit on the sidelines and criticize the LPA without getting involved. The responsibility of revolutionaries should be clear.

The ruling class can't stop the economic revolution. All they can do is accelerate it. And the more they accelerate it, the more they create the conditions for their own destruction as a class. You cannot complete a revolution without seizing political power. Revolution is made by the broad masses, but the seizure of power is done by a special political organization. In this country, at this time, there is only one potentially mass organization which is class conscious, has a worker's agenda, and is based upon and led by the working class: the LPA.

The political stability of America has always rested upon that huge section of the population that had enough to give them the hope of getting some more. So long as they had hope, they wouldn't work to overthrow the system for love nor money no matter how hard they were hurting. This is changing. The majority of Americans watch as their income stagnates or goes down in buying power. Growing numbers are joining the ranks of the homeless. Entire families are increasingly showing up at homeless shelters. There are cuts in public schooling. Alienation is growing.

The polarization of wealth and poverty isn't just somebody's idea. It's a result of qualitative change in the means of production. When products made by robots are sold as if they were made by human beings, corporate wealth really takes off. Capitalists have reduced labor expenses, and electronics are quickly cranking out those products. How do you spread out this wealth short of social revolution ?

Will the ruling class crack down with a fascist solution to the impending crisis? Can fascists stop the coming social and political revolution? Only under one condition, says Peery. A rapidly expanding economy enabled McCarthyism and the anti-communist hysteria of the 1950's. The economy didn't expand equitably, but it expanded enough to where almost everybody felt they had a stake in the capitalist system. Is this the situation today? Even though it will not succeed, we must prepare for a desperate reaction that will in all likelihood be vicious.

When Frederick Engels put forth the concept that socialism was the first stage of communism wherein the laws of value still operated and where society had to build the economic foundations for communism, he was observing societies long before electronics and robotics. Because of the tremendous productivity of the high-tech machinery we have today, reconstruction of society along cooperative lines will be much easier than the staggering tasks that faced the USSR and led to undemocratic distortions.

Groups that are active in the struggle to reform this system need to reconsider their work in light of the profound changes society is going through. Peery challenges us to re-evaluate strategy in light of these changes, ask new questions, and imagine living in a new, cooperative America free of boring, repetitious jobs and no longer limited by scarcity.

The website of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, the group Nelson Peery is working with, is http://www.LRNA.org
The website of the Labor Party of America is http://www.thelaborparty.org/

(Announcements, cont.)

Return to Sylvester Park to listen to music, learn how you can make a difference, and be a part of a global movement for positive change toward peace and justice. Sponsored by the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)

Next meeting Feb.12, 7pm at the Olympia Community Center. http://www.omjp.org call: 867-6513 to get involved!

Until Freedom Is Won!

International Day Of Solidarity
With Leonard Peltier
March And Rally For Justice
Saturday, February 8, 2003
Tacoma, Wa

OLYMPIA: Meet at 10:45 Media Island 816 Adams St.

12:00 Noon: March For Justice Portland Ave Park (on Portland Ave. between E. 34th and E. Fairbanks Ave. Take Portland Ave. exit off I-5 and head east)

1:00 PM: Rally For Justice At U.s. Federal Court House, 1717 Pacific Ave.

Speakers: Matilaja, Yu'pik - Yakama, Tacoma LPSG; Harold Belmont, Elder, Native People's Alliance With Friends and Allies; Dorothy Ackerman, Lakota Elder; Helaire EchoHawk, Native American Coalition; Juan Jose Bocanegra, long time Peltier supporter; Michael Oneroad, Portland AIM; Steve Hapy Jr, NW AIM; Arthur J. Miller, Tacoma LPSG; Matt Remle, Lakota, Community Coalition for Environmental Justice; Peter Bohmer, Evergreen State College Teacher; Pio Celestino, Peruvian Indigenous Elder, Regugio Del Rio Grande. Music: Jim Page and NW AIM DRUM

After Rally: Honoring Potluck At The Guadalupe House, 1417 S. G St This is open to all supporters. This meal will give thanks to those who have helped in the past 10 years with our regional network and with the Feb. 8th march and rally. It is also a time to make connections to build for the future.

Sponsored By: Tacoma LPSG, NW AIM, Native People's Alliance With Friends and Allies, Native American Coalition, Seattle LPSG

Feb. 6th, 2003 will mark the 27th year since AIM activist Leonard Peltier's arrest. After Leonard's defense team in appeals disproved the government's case against Leonard the government stated that they have no evidence directly connecting Leonard to the deaths of the FBI agents that he was convicted for, but still he has not been granted a new trial. The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee has a new appeal and a lawsuit against the FBI. This event is in support of the appeal, lawsuit and seeks to send a message of solidarity for the continuous struggle for justice for Leonard Peltier. www.freepeltier.org.

Investing to Change the World

with Leslie Christian, President of Progressive Investment Management in Portland, will be presented on Tuesday, Feb. 4th at 7:00 PM at Traditions Café, Fifth and Water Street. This free talk covering socially and environmentally responsible investing for a more peaceful and sustainable world is sponsored by the Olympia Chapter of the NW Earth Institute. For more information call 352-9351.

(WROC, continued)

help whether you can send in $2 or $200. We want to thank all of you who have given this year. We know it has been a hard year for all of us and we all give what we can. If you have not given to WROC, think about it. It would really help us if you could give monthly.

Do you have friends who you could introduce to WROC? A house party/coffee is fairly easy to pull together. It gives our leaders a chance to talk about the work they are doing. It gives new friends a change to support the organization. Do you know anyone who can make a large gift?

We are talking about doing ArtWROC during Artwalk in April in Olympia and will still hold the auction in Seattle in May. Think about working on the planning committee. We need people to help pull the events together. If you cannot work on the committees, can you donate an item or a service? Can you bring 4-8 friends?

We want to thank everyone who has supported WROC over the years. We are confident that we will pull through.

Welfare Rights Organizing
www.wroc.org
701 Franklin Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-352-9716

In Olympia, we hold a volunteer coordination meeting every Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the WROC office in the Payne Room of the First Christian Church at the corner of 7th and Franklin. If you are driving, you are welcome to park in any of the unmarked spots in the parking lot under the church. If you cannot make this time, but still wish to volunteer, please call the WROC office at 352-9716. The next Planning and Organizing Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 4th at 5:30 at the old Madison School on Central Street. The meeting begins with a potluck. On site child care is available.

Come hear about the NW Earth Institute book discussion courses and sign up for a course at the Olympia Timberland Library at 7-8 PM, Free: Choices for Sustainable Living Feb. 19; Sense of Place March 12. For more info call 705-2884. NW Earth Institute 8 week book discussion course on "A Sense of Place" will begin on Feb. 11th. Course is free, book cost is $ 18. Call 705-2884 for time, location and to register.

Kitchen Garden Project

The Kitchen Garden Project provides low-income families in Olympia, Lacey & Tumwater with high-yield vegetable gardens at your own home. Soil, seeds, vegetable starts, and instructions are all provided at no cost. Because there are a limited number of gardens to be given away, contact GRuB 753-5522 soon to be added to our list.

Feb 22 from 10am-2pm @ Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (1515 Harrison Ave). Join Garden-Raised Bounty for our annual seed sorting party! We will be sorting thousands of packs of seeds that will be given away to the low-income families that we build gardens for. A delicious lunch will be provided! Contact Jackson at 753-5522 for more information.

(WIP, continued)

collective effort; a dedicated core of about a dozen volunteers who poured an enormous amount of time and energy into the paper's monthly production. Over the years, some of these core WIPsters have hung in there and continued on in certain defined roles to keep it going. Countless volunteers have come and gone with varying degrees of activity, continuity or reliability. The trend, however, has been a slow steady decline in active participation.

While it was not his original intent or desire, Pat has increasingly picked up the slack of bases left uncovered. Although he says that the task has become somewhat more streamlined over the years through practice, improved computer technology, and by not reading article submissions before printing them, the responsibility he has borne all these years, to me seems quite daunting. What WIP needs now is *more people* — smart, reliable, committed people to reorganize the coordination and production of this newspaper.

I asked Pat to break it down into a list of tasks that people could sign up for. (It should be mentioned at this point that none of these tasks has ever or likely *will* ever involve monetary compensation. This is and always has been a strictly volunteer-based operation.) Here's what he gave me:

A) Pre-production:

1) Answer questions about and solicit writing submissions, advertisements, etc. Writers are responsible for their own work but they need a contact person. This task is ongoing and sporadic (and often annoying).

2) Office work: Billing, advertisements, and updating subscriber list. Best done by one person and/or a team with some beer. Requires three-plus hours per month.

3) Compile submissions and format for computer layout: Best done by one person, but maybe could rotate from month to month. Requires five hours per month.

4) Website maintenance

5) Fundraising.

B) Production:

1) Computer layout: Best done by one person, but maybe could rotate from month to month. Requires fifteen-plus hours the week before printing.

2) Paper layout: Best done by one person and/or a team with some beer. Requires four hours, the night before printing.

3) Drive it to the printer and back for distribution. Best done by one person and/or a team with some caffienated beverage. Requires four hours, the morning and afternoon of the last Friday of the month.

C) Post-Production

1) Distribution: Best done by dividing up territory amongst at least three people with cars. Requires two hours, the weekend of the last Friday of the month plus some check-backs.

2) Mailing: Best done by one person and/or a team with some beer. Requires two hours, the weekend of the last Friday of the month.

Some of these tasks are already covered. But *if you would like to sign up for one or more of those which are not covered, or if you would like to participate in a brainstorming session with the purpose of devising a master plan for keeping the WIP alive, please attend a planning meeting at* **The Olympia City Center, Room 206, on Feb. 11 at 6:30pm** *or contact* **figtree@olywa.net.**

Finances

Works In Progress is *not* a 501C3 nonprofit organization. It costs about $400 - 500 to print each month. The paper has never had an office or other such expenses like paying people. For the first three years the core volunteers actually paid out-of-pocket for the difference between costs and revenues, but haven't had to do so since then.

According to Pat, WIP has survived over the years by relying on four sources of funding: advertising, subscriptions, donations and fund-raisers. Because all these sources of income tend to fluctuate, the organization accumulates a savings to draw on in lean times.

Well, it's been lean times for a year now and unless things change, WIP will be out of money by the end of this year. At that time the paper will either terminate, *or* it could be sustained by limiting printing to only four to eight pages per month, *or* by printing only every other month, or both.

Or measures could be taken to increase revenues. As cited above, *fundraisng* is a task someone could take on. Additionally, those people who want to support WIP but are not able or willing to volunteer *time*, could instead send in a donation. (*See page 2 for mailing info.*) Subscriptions are also good but it is helpful if, instead of asking to have the paper delivered by mail, those who are able, simply pick up a copy at one of the many locations around town where stacks of the WIP can be found.

Thank You, Pat

I should clarify that I am *not* one of those dedicated core people mentioned earlier in this article. My involvement with this newspaper is fairly recent and quite *minimal* at best. I value the paper greatly but as I said earlier, Pat has always been there to pick up the slack of my non-involvement. That is no longer the case.

I do *not* want to lose this important resource. (You never miss the water til the well runs dry.) This newspaper belongs to the community: It is my great hope that the community will rally to keep it going.

And I feel confident in saying that I'm sure I am not alone in my gratitude to Pat Tassoni for his profoundly important service to this community by doing so much to keep this forum available for so long. Thanks, Pat.

The future of this newspaper is quite literally in *our* hands. What are YOU willing to do for the survival of Works In Progress?

Again, if you want to help and or brainstorm, e-mail **figtree@olywa.net.**

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
W.I.P.
WORKS IN PROGRESS
CORPORATE MEDIA
ADVISORY
WIP STILL FREE AFTER 12 YEARS
A BUNCH OF GUYS PLAN A DANGEROUS AND DISTURBING STUNT JUST TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
IRAQAS
THE MOVIE
THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, DADDY!
HUSSEIN? NOT US, WE'RE INSANE!
I DUNNO ABOUT THIS, GUYS!
OR BUST!
CAN'T WE GO ANY FASTER?
HELL
IT'S THE MOVIE NOBODY WANTS TO SEE!!
Starring: GEORGY BLOCKHEADSVILLE• DICK "CEEMAN" CHENEY• RUMMY
and a CAST OF THOUSANDS of your Sons & daughters!
THE DOPE SOUNDTRACK INCLUDES: "IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT," "THE FOOLS ON THE HILL," "IRAQ 'N' THE FREE WORLD" and more!
THIS MOVIE HAS IMMENSE INSANITY ALL OVER IT !!!
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
RATED: UN FOR UNNECESSARY

Internal Investigation of Police Killing & WROC Hit by Recession - 1 -

Know More **Henry Kissinger** - 5 -

Meditation on Sylvester Park - 6 -

United for Peace & Overpass Actions - 7 -

Congress has Right to Declare War - 8 -

Book Review **The Future Is Up To Us** - 10 -

Democracy Now! on TCTV

Democracy Now! is now being aired DAILY on our community telebision station TCTV!

Democracy Now! is the award-winning show of news and commentary hosted by Amy Goodman. It is virtually the only show of its kind, featuring regular analysis of world affairs from important figures like: Noam Chomsky, Vandana Shiva, Howard Zinn et al. Most "Americans" have no access to these perspectives, and it is extremely important that we do, here in Thurston County. Now you can VIEW this invaluable show, Monday-Friday, from 4-5pm, on TCTV Channel 22 or 29, depending on location.

The project to bring DN! to TCTV was spearheaded by KAOS Listeners for Democracy Now! (KLDN), in collaboration with Media Island International. As always, DN! can also be heard in the South Sound on KAOS 89.3FM, M-F, 9-10am. In the greater Seattle Area, try KBCS, 91.3 FM, from 6:30- 7:30 PM. Or, tune in on line: http://www.democracynow.org

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507